

## ***The Gracie Fund***

Maine Community Foundation & Sunrise Community Economic Council

*“When I came to Maine, I wished I had been born here. There is an integrity in Maine’s communities that is worth preserving. It is a dynamic way of life with generations of value.”*

- Donor of the Gracie Fund

### ***History and Purpose***

The Gracie Fund offers tuition-reimbursement incentives to encourage natives of Washington County, or those who consider Washington County their “home,” to establish new and deeper roots in their communities following completion of their post-secondary education.

The Gracie Fund fosters community development by helping recipients connect to Washington County through their commitment to a career and community service.

School loan repayment awards of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to three individuals each year. Awards may be renewed for up to three years. The IRS considers these awards taxable income.

### ***Community Service***

The key component of the Gracie Program is community service. With the assistance of the fund administrators, participants will develop a volunteer action plan outlining short and long-term goals based on his/her interests and skills. Washington County offers a multitude of volunteer opportunities. Action plans might entail working with a local development group on attracting businesses to the area, assisting in designing a comprehensive plan for your town, volunteering with a local arts or human services agency or serving on a town board.

Participants will be connected to the area’s leaders and organizations by the staff at the Sunrise Economic Council, which has developed networks and partnerships of residents working together for the benefit of Washington County, many of whom are graduates of the Washington County Leadership Institute.

### ***Eligibility***

The Gracie Fund invites applications from natives of Washington County, or those who consider Washington County their “home,” who have graduated from college within five years of the date of application and are building a professional and personal life in Washington County. Preference will be given to applicants moving back to Washington County.

The preference is for applicants who intend to work and live in Washington County for a minimum of two years.

Applicants must commit to fulfill their community service obligation by volunteering with a Washington County organization (i.e. social services agency, library, school, church, sports team, etc.).

Applicants must commit to active participation in the Gracie program (i.e. action plan, attend semi-annual meetings of Gracie participants).

Applicants may not be in default on a loan or have deferred loans.

***Selection Criteria:***

Award consideration will be based on:

1. Evidence of a strong commitment to establishing new and deeper roots in Washington County.
2. Evidence of prior community service.
3. Evidence of financial need.

***Administration***

The Maine Community Foundation and the Sunrise County Economic Council, located in Washington County, jointly administer the Gracie Fund. Applications may be obtained from [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org) and [www.sunrisecounty.org](http://www.sunrisecounty.org).

Applications must be postmarked by July 15 and returned to:

Gracie Fund  
Maine Community Foundation  
245 Main Street  
Ellsworth, ME 04605

***All applications and required information sent separately must be postmarked by July 15. Incomplete applications or those postmarked after this date will not be processed.***

# GRACIE FUND

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address:**

Street address or P.O. number \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Gracie Fund invites applications from students who have completed their post-secondary education within five years of the date of application. Please detail your degree history below.**

College	Date of Completion	Degree
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Major Field(s) of Study:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Employment:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly Gross Income: \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Net Income: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Dependents \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Net Household Income: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total of student loan balances:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **No. of outstanding loans** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total monthly loan payment:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Applicants may not be in default on a loan or have deferred loans.*

**Please explain why Washington County is your home.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A key component of the Gracie Fund is community service. Please share the highlights of your volunteer experiences with us.**

**Volunteer History**  
**Organization**

**Your Role**

**# of Years**

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**My areas of interest are:**

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**Personal Statement (two-page maximum):**

The Gracie Fund expects recipients to make a commitment to Washington County through their career and community service. Please explain why it is important to you to live and work in Washington County. Tell us about the skills and strengths you bring to the community. What are your personal goals and your goals for Washington County? Do you have a support system in place in Washington County to help you attain them? If not, how do you anticipate developing a network? How can the Gracie Fund help you?

**Letter of Recommendation**

Please ask a current professor or employer to submit a letter of recommendation in support of your application to the Gracie Fund. The letter must be current (dated after January 1, 2012), on official letterhead, contain your first and last name, and be signed by the writer, who must identify his/her relationship to you (not a family member). E-mail letters are not acceptable.

**Required Information: (please do not staple)**

Please submit the information requested below printed on one side only (not front and back).

- ❖ This completed application form
- ❖ Your personal statement
- ❖ Your resume
- ❖ A signed letter of recommendation as outlined above
- ❖ Documentation of student loan(s) from financial institution(s) managing your account(s).
- ❖ A copy of your most recent federal tax return

I certify that I am a legal resident of the United States and that all information on this form is true and complete. I understand that I may be asked to provide proof of information stated on this form.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Applications must be postmarked by July 15 and returned to:

Gracie Fund  
Maine Community Foundation  
245 Main Street  
Ellsworth, ME 04605  
Tel: 877-700-6800 (toll free)  
[info@mainecf.org](mailto:info@mainecf.org)

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